

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CALCUT 01155 051619Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 CAB-05
H-02 L-03 /029 W
-----022284 060254Z /12
R 050945Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6733
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 1155

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR OGEN
SUBJECT: INQUIRY ABOUT OFFERING FREE AIRLINE PASSAGE TO
MOTHER TERESA

1. MAJOR EASTERN INDIA BUSINESSMAN, SURESH KUMAR
(COAL, HYBRID SEEDS, LIGHT MANUFACTURING) HAS TOLD US
THAT HE PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING
A SHORT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IN ABOUT THE FIRST WEEK OF
AUGUST.

2. KUMAR HAS THE AGENCY IN CALCUTTA FOR PAN AMERICAN
AIRWAYS. HE IS GIVING THOUGHT TO HOW TO PERSUADE
HIS AIRLINE TO OFFER, AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY, FREE AIR
TRANSPORTATION TO MOTHER TERESA AND HER ORGANIZATION,
SINCE MOTHER TERESA AND HER WORK AMONG THE POOR OF THIS
AND OTHER CITIES ARE WELL KNOWN AND WIDELY CONSIDERED TO
BE PARTICULARLY DESERVING OF SUPPORT.

3. KUMAR UNDERSTANDS THAT UNDER IATA RULES, INTERNATIONAL
CARRIERS ARE RESTRICTED IN OFFERING FREE SEATS, AND THAT
IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS A REQUEST BY A GOVERNMENT
OR AT LEAST A NON-OBJECTION STATEMENT BY A
GOVERNMENTAL AVIATION AUTHORITY, IS REQUIRED TO EXEMPT
A TRAVELER FROM CHARGES. IN THE CASE OF PAN
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AMERICAN HELPING MOTHER TERESA IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SOME
COMBINATION OF REQUEST/NONOBJECTIONS FROM BOTH THE USG
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MAY BE CALLED FOR. AIR
INDIA NOW GIVES HER UP TO TWELVE SEATS PER YEAR, WITH
THE APPROVAL OF THE INDIAN EQUIVALENT OF OUR CAB.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S PROVIDING US FROM

THE CAB OR ELSEWHERE FOR TRANSMISSION TO KUMAR, A
READING ON THE MECHANICS OF THIS PROBLEM, AND THE
NAMES OF THE MOST SUITABLE USG OFFICIALS WITH
WHOM HE COULD DISCUSS MATTER DURING HIS VISIT. BECAUSE
OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY'S WELL-KNOWN SUPPORT FOR
MOTHER TERESA, KUMAR IS ALSO CONSIDERING CALLING AT
THE SENATOR'S OFFICE WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

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